

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday, May 19, 2024



1235 Summer Hill Road, Auburn, PA 17922
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Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9am–2pm; Closed Friday
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Pentecost Sunday
Strengthen the Church Offering

Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor

Music Director- Rae Ann Borger
Organist- Colin Andrew

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

This morning we remember in prayer, from our Schuylkill Association Prayer Calendar, **Pentecost and the Strengthen the Church offering.**

Please read the announcements that are in this downloadable bulletin, as well as those we post on our Facebook site, our emails, and our phone calls, and then help spread the word to those who do not have access to any of those messages.

INVOCATION

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

PRELUDE

The congregation may stand.

SOLEMN DECLARATION.....Sung "Amen"

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: In rushing wind and tongues of fire . . .

People: the Church is born.

Pastor: In courage found and faith renewed . . .

People: the Church gains strength.

Pastor: In visions seen and dreams made real . . .

People: the Church blesses the world.

Pastor: In hopes rekindled and fears released . . .

People: the Church leads the way.

Pastor: In rushing wind and tongues of fire . . .

People: Come, Holy Spirit, come. Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 540....."Two Thousand Years Since Bethlehem"

*Two thousand years since Bethlehem first welcomed Jesus' birth:
the startling truth began to dawn that God had come to earth.
And as he grew and lived and taught a different way unfurled:
a way of joy and love and peace, a new start for the world!*

*Two thousand years since Galilee where Jesus preached and healed;
in words of truth and works of power God's kingdom was revealed.
As young and old and rich and poor responded to his call,
they found what we may find today: a new start for us all!*

*Two thousand years since Calvary, the hill where Jesus died;
the Lamb of God, the sinless one, for me was crucified.
But soon he rose up from the grave to reign in victory;
good news I scarcely can believe; a new start won for me!*

*Two thousand years since Pentecost: the Holy Spirit came
in sound of mighty, rushing wind and tongues of living flame;
a gift to all who will believe and live the Jesus way;
the power of God we may receive, a new start from today!*

*Two thousand years of Christian faith have changed our history,
for Jesus is the Lord of time and of eternity.
For all who seek a better way, than failure, sin and pain,
still Jesus Christ makes all things new: a chance to start again!*

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

Creator God, the earth is full of your creatures. When you send forth your spirit, they are created. When you take away their breath, they return to the earth. Open your hand and fill us with good things, Holy One, that we may sing and rejoice in your presence. Forgive us when we go astray, save us from our weakness, and intercede on our behalf, that we may proclaim the glory of your world and help others claim your many blessings. Amen.

MOMENT OF PERSONAL CONFESSION

KYRIE

Pastor: Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Pastor: Christ, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Pastor: Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: In the name of Jesus Christ, who sent us the Spirit of Truth, we are forgiven.

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen!

THE GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, it is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The congregation may be seated.

ENGAGING THE WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

READING OF THE WORD.....Lector, Bonnie Reber

Book of Acts: Acts 2:1-21 (Page 948)

Psalm: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b (Read responsively)

Lector: O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

People: Yonder is the sea, great and wide, creeping things innumerable are there, living things both small and great.

Lector: There go the ships, and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it. These all look to you to give them their food in due season;

People: when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

Lector: When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

People: When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground.

Lector: May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works—who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke.

People: I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

Lector: May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the LORD.

People: Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul. Praise the Lord!

Epistle Lesson: Romans 8:22-27 (Page 983)

Gospel Lesson: John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15 (Page 940)

Lector: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE.....“*Let Thy word abide in us, O Lord.*”

SENIOR CHOIR ANTHEM.....“*In the Quiet*” by Camp Kirkland

SERMON.....“*A Spirit Story*”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD
The congregation may remain seated.

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 332.....“*Let Every Christian Pray*”

*Let every Christian pray, this day and every day, come, Holy Spirit, come!
Was not the church we love commissioned from above? Come, Holy Spirit, come!*

*The Spirit brought to birth the church of Christ on earth to seek and save the lost:
God never has withdrawn, since that tremendous dawn, the gifts at Pentecost.*

*Only the Spirit's power can fit us for this hour: Come, Holy Spirit, come!
Instruct, inspire, unite, and help us see your light: Come, Holy Spirit, come!*

The congregation may stand.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison).....Apostles Creed in the form of a Litany

Pastor: Do you believe in God?

People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The congregation may be seated.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

SILENT PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE

Hear our prayer, O Lord; Hear our prayer, O Lord; Hear our prayer, O Lord, And grant us Thy peace. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING

The congregation may stand.

OFFERING RESPONSE & DEDICATION.....DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

OFFERING PRAYER

GOING WITH THE WORD

COMMISSION

Pastor: In rushing wind and cleansing fire, go forth in the power of the living God.

People: We go as children of God.

Pastor: In courage found and strength renewed, go forth in the power of the eternal Christ.

People: We go as heirs with Christ.

Pastor: In visions born and dreams restored, go forth in the power of the Holy Spirit.

People: We go as new creations in the Spirit.

BENEDICTION

THE THREEFOLD AMEN.....*Amen. Amen. Amen.*

CLOSING HYMN NO. 132.....“Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart”

*Spirit of God, descend upon my heart, free it from sin, through all its pulses move.
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as you are, and make me love you as I ought to love.*

*I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies, no sudden rending of the veil of clay,
no angel visitant, no opening skies, but take the dimness of my soul away.*

*Did you not bid us love you, God and King, love you with all our heart and strength and mind?
I see your cross--there teach my heart to cling. O let me seek you and O let me find!*

*Teach me to feel that you are always nigh; teach me the struggles of the soul to bear,
to check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh; teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.*

*Teach me to love you as your angels love, one holy passion filling all my frame:
the baptism of the heaven-descended Dove, my heart an altar, and your love the flame.*

SILENT MEDITATION

POSTLUDE

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Portions of today's worship resources were reproduced or adapted from the UCC's Book of Worship, and by B. J. Beu from the 2024 Abingdon Worship Annuals edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. Pastoral Prayer adapted from the Baptist Union of Great Britain website. <http://www.baptist.org.uk/>

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-The altar flowers and bulletins are in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Reber by the family.

-Offering on Sunday, May 12, 2024: \$2,003.00

-Weekly envelope & plate budget for 2024: \$3,243.09

-TODAY we will receive the UCC's Strengthen the Church Offering. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing churches. Special envelopes are on the table by the bulletins.

-The May Communion offering is designated to Phoebe Ministries. The June Communion offering is designated to Locust Lake Camp Ministries.

- A list of suggested items for the St. Paul's Food Challenge (through May 31) can be picked up in the Narthex of the church. These items can be used as a guide to help supply ingredients to provide three healthy meals as well as a treat! We are asking for at least 31 of our households to donate 31 food items in 31 days!! We will then provide the last 139 items to reach our goal of 1100 items. You may leave your donation at the back of the sanctuary or contact Brook Koch-Guers at 570-449-0825 or by email at bkochguers@comcast.net to arrange for one of the boys to pick up your donation at your home. Together we can provide families with summer blessings!!

-The Consistory will meet this Tuesday, May 21 at 7pm in the conference room.

-There are DCNR forms on the table to allow you to give your opinion about outdoor recreation. The deadline to complete the survey is this Wednesday, May 22.

-There will be a special Memorial Service of Remembrance at the Veterans Memorial next to the Summer Hill Cemetery **next Sunday, May 26** at 10am. We will join with our neighbors from St. Paul's Lutheran Church. This is a wonderful and very meaningful way to begin our holiday week, and start off summer on the right note. Children are more than welcome to bring flowers to lay at the memorial.

-Our summer worship schedule will begin on Sunday, June 2. During the months of June, July and August, worship will be held at 9:30am on Sunday mornings. **There will be no Sunday school during this time.** Worship will resume at 10:30am on Sunday, September 1.

-The Pennsylvania Southeast Conference (PSEC) Spring Annual Meeting will be held June 7-9 at The Penn Stater Hotel & Conference Center, State College, PA. Please speak to Pastor Ken if you are interested in attending this important meeting.

-Fellowship Time (aka, coffee hour): Join us for conversation, along with a cup of coffee and light refreshments following our 9:30am worship service on Sunday, June 9. We will gather in the rear of the Sanctuary the Second Sunday of each month. Catch up with old friends, make new ones, and stay up to date on

everything happening at St. Paul's. And best of all, it's free of charge!! Help is needed: If you would be interested in helping to assist in hosting a fellowship hour, please contact the church office or speak to Pastor Ken.

-The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets the second Tuesday of each month from 10am-12noon in the conference room. **The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 11.** If you are interested in crocheting and/or knitting, we can hook you up! If you know of someone who could use a prayer shawl, please contact the church office or Nancy Dewald.

-During our 9:30am worship service on Sunday, June 30, we will be recognizing and congratulating the graduates from our congregation. If you or someone you know is graduating from High School, College, a Technical School or some other institution of higher learning, **please contact the church office by June 16,** so that we may recognize them for their fantastic achievement.

-On Sunday, June 16 (Father's Day), we will be collecting a special offering designated to Locust Lake Camp Ministries. Special envelopes will be available on the bulletin table in the narthex.

-The third Sunday of the month is designated as "Bring your motorcycle to church" Sunday. The upcoming dates are June 16, July 21, August 18, and September 15. Spread the word, invite your friend, and join us for some fun and fellowship. If you would like to be notified of other rides throughout the summer, please notify the church office to have your name added to the "Biker" email list!

-The Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry is in great need and accepts all non-perishable food items and paper products. Items can be dropped off at the church during the week or placed in the shopping cart at the back of the sanctuary. **NO OUTDATED FOOD PLEASE.** **We will be helping Monday, June 17 at 8:30am and Friday, June 21 at 1pm.** Please speak to Verna Ebling or the church office if you would like to help or donate items.

-WELCOME TO SCUBA DIVING INTO FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD! Vacation Bible School will be held at St. Paul's June 17-21. All children ages 4-12 (grade 6) are welcome and invited to attend. Please save the date and share with all your relatives, friends and neighbors. Registration forms are on the bulletin table and also included in the May newsletter. Forms can be submitted to the church office or to wareber@comcast.net. More information will follow via church newsletter, bulletins, email and Members of St. Paul's Facebook. **ALL ARE WELCOME!!**

-Outdoor worship services will be held once a month, the fourth Sunday of the month. Grab your lawn chair or favorite blanket and join us once again amidst the beauty of God's creation. **Our first outdoor service will be held on the front church lawn on Sunday, June 23 at 9:30am.** We will also worship outdoors on **Sunday, July 28, Sunday, August 25 and Sunday, September 22.** Please note: in case of inclement weather, the services will be moved inside and held in the sanctuary.

-On Sunday, June 30 we will collect the 5th Sunday offering which is designated to the Schuylkill Haven Council of Churches Food Pantry. Special envelopes will become available.

-In an effort to keep our records up to date, we are asking that if you have had a change to any of your information, would like to add a cell phone number or email address, or just want to be sure we have your most current info., please contact the church office.

-Your help is needed!! We are still looking for some additional people to help run our new sound and video equipment on a Sunday morning! Please let us know if you would be willing to help. We will then figure out a good mutual time to "train" those who are interested! Ideally, we will get a few people interested, and then sign up for Sundays either on a weekly or monthly basis, somewhat like the lectors.

-When you or a loved one is sick or in the hospital for an extended stay, please notify the church office. Please do not assume that the pastor will know you are there. We are served by many different area hospitals and do not know which one you may utilize. So please do not hesitate to let us know your condition so that Pastor Ken can provide you with spiritual care! You may call the church office at 570-754-7225 and leave a message 24/7 with your name, number, and what you are calling about. The staff will be notified remotely of your call and will get back to you as soon as possible. You can also email us at summerhillucc@gmail.com.

-Our church services are livestreamed on Facebook! We continue to reach many people who are unable to worship with us in person, giving them God's message of hope and love. Call the church office if you or someone you know needs help getting online.

-Prayer is Powerful! Please continue to call the church office or email us your prayer concerns to be included on our prayer list. We believe in the power of prayer and want to pray for you. **We have a prayer concerns email group for anyone who would like to join.** Contact the church office and we will be happy to add you to the email distribution list. The Agape Committee continues to send cards to members on the prayer concerns list, so please continue sharing your concerns with us. Thank you!!

PRAYER CONCERNS: All those earnestly seeking God's help in difficult times, Military personnel & National Leaders, *family and friends of Ronald Lee "Chick" Reber, Fern Furman, family and friends of Italia Deering, family and friends of Nathan Reedy, Al Herring, Jerry Koch, Don Koch, Fran Wolfe, Holly Koscak, Amy Koons, Dick Clauser, Mary Ella Hoy, Lori Edwards, Mathias Joseph Nagle, son of Joe and Tamara Nagle, Stacy Strause, Carol Fessler, Amy Crouse, Erinn Carll, Ernie Jones, Ron Mengel, Tom Toomey, Guy Fessler, Harold Berkheiser, Shirley German, Cassie Wolfe, Marion Bartolet, Mabel Edwards*

CANCER PATIENTS: Wayne Alward, Boone, Marie Bleu, Alex DuVee, John Eckert, Glennis Eifert, *Joanne Forbes, Rebecca Henderson, Sherri Jo Jennar, Deb Kemmerling, Norma Koperna, Joan Krause, Lori Krug, Carol Mallory, Carol Mengel, Tom Nagle, Judy Ohl, Pat Reading, Jim Thompson, Barry Webber, Terri Willard*

FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, MAY 19

Sunday, May 19 *Pentecost Sunday *Strengthen the Church Offering *Motorcycle Sunday

9:15 AM -Sunday School

-Motorcycle ride following worship

Tuesday, May 21

7:00 PM -Consistory Meeting

Wednesday, May 22

7:00 PM -Senior Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 23

6:00 PM -Confirmation Class

Sunday, May 26 *Trinity Sunday *Memorial Day Weekend

9:15 AM -Sunday School (last class for the summer!)

10:00 AM -Memorial Service at the Monument

10:30 AM -Worship

***Lectionary Readings for next week:**

Isaiah 6:1-8

Psalm 29

Romans 8:12-17

John 3:1-17